



# News

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Mark I. Payne Named Substance Abuse & Mental Health Director**

Utah State Hospital Superintendent Mark I. Payne will become Utah Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health Director effective June 20<sup>th</sup>.

Payne has been hospital superintendent for 12 years. He began his hospital career nearly 30 years ago and has served in various leadership and treatment positions.

“It’s important to recognize Mark for his ‘human touch,’” said Human Services Executive Director Lisa-Michele Church in announcing his promotion. “His staff will tell you he is approachable, caring and concerned for them as people. If you walk down the hall with him, patients are comfortable approaching him, and he always takes time to smile and greet them.”

Payne has several goals for the agency including developing a comprehensive plan to guide all decisions, policy and operations.

“Promoting consumer involvement and self-determination is vital,” Payne said. “I also want to further develop the relationships with local substance abuse and mental health authorities statewide and increase public education on substance abuse and mental health issues.”

Payne has a master’s degree in social work from the University of Utah, a bachelor of science in social work from Brigham Young University and was recently named Human Services Department manager of the year.

Dallas Earnshaw, the State Hospital’s assistant clinical director for the past 12 years, will serve as acting superintendent. He has worked in mental health for more than 23 years and is a board-certified clinical nurse specialist in psychiatric nursing.

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